



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2725 Montlake Boulevard East  
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

Dear Interested Party:

We would like your help in providing a sound scientific basis for recovery planning for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River basin.

Background. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has recently formed a Technical Recovery Team (TRT) for the Interior Columbia Basin recovery domain. This domain covers the mid- and upper-Columbia River and Snake River basins upstream of the Cascade crest; it includes seven distinct population segments of salmon listed as threatened or endangered species under the ESA: Snake River sockeye, steelhead, and spring/summer and fall chinook; Upper Columbia steelhead and spring chinook; and mid-Columbia steelhead. The TRT will be responsible for establishing biologically based ESA recovery goals for listed salmon and steelhead within their domain, and will serve as science advisors to the recovery planning phase, which will involve development of a comprehensive set of measures to achieve the recovery goals. TRTs were formed last year for the Puget Sound and Willamette/Lower Columbia River domains, and this fall TRTs in Southern Oregon and California will meet for the first time. For more information about salmon recovery planning, please visit our website at <http://research.nwfsc.noaa.gov/cbd/trt/about.htm>. The document "Recovery Planning Guidance for Technical Recovery Teams," which is also available at this website, provides a description of the technical work of the TRTs.

Solicitation. Although we are starting the Interior Columbia Basin TRT at this time, **we would like to increase the pool of nominees with strong expertise in freshwater habitat and the relationship between the quality, quantity, and distribution of habitat and the response of fish populations. Therefore, we are soliciting additional nominations for consideration, with particular emphasis on habitat expertise.** One or more additional members may be added to the TRT as a result of this solicitation.

Nominations. Nominations should follow the same procedures outlined for other TRTs. Candidates can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party. Nomination packages should include a detailed Curriculum Vitae that describes pertinent publications and experience and a narrative explanation of how the nominee meets the following selection criteria. Each TRT member must satisfy the first three criteria below (numbers 1-3) and at least one of the remaining three criteria (numbers 4-6):

1. High achievement in a relevant discipline, which may include ecology, genetics, fisheries, hydrology, river geomorphology, or other appropriate disciplines.
2. High standards of scientific integrity, independence, and objectivity.
3. Demonstrated interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary team setting.
4. Extensive knowledge of West Coast salmon biology, status, or habitat.
5. A record of scientific accomplishment documented by contribution to the peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of creative scientific accomplishment.

6. Demonstrated ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems.

The Curriculum Vitae and supporting documentation should provide enough information to facilitate the evaluation and selection of candidates according to the six criteria enumerated above. Based on the written materials submitted, an independent panel of scientists will evaluate all nominations to ensure that they meet the above criteria. NMFS will consider adding additional TRT members from among the candidates most highly ranked by the screening panel.

We anticipate that members of the TRT will need to devote at least 25 percent of their time to accomplish the necessary tasks. We expect the process of finalizing delisting criteria and related tasks for all ESUs within the domain to take up to two years. Because Interior Columbia Basin recovery planning is necessary to assist the FCRPS agencies in meeting the conditions of the FCRPS 2000 biological opinion, and because there are strict timelines for meeting the biological opinion's requirements, the FCRPS agencies will help fund the development of TRT products.

Please forward your nominations to Juliet Fabbri at the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle, WA 98112 ([juliet.fabbri@noaa.gov](mailto:juliet.fabbri@noaa.gov)). Nominations received by **November 9, 2001** will be ensured full consideration in this round of evaluation by the panel. In addition, NMFS will accept nominations indefinitely for inclusion in a "reserve pool" to fill vacancies or to add members with expertise in specific areas as needed by the TRT. Nominations received at any time will be screened according to the criteria listed above.

Thank you for your help in this important process. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Waples at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (206) 860-3254 or Elizabeth Gaar at the Northwest Regional Office (503) 230-5434.

Sincerely,



Donna Darm  
for Regional Administrator Robert Lohn  
Northwest Region



Usha Varanasi, Ph.D.  
Director  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center